

SUMMARY

The specification of the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of WO 2004/024448 A1, has been cancelled in favor of the concurrently submitted Substitute Specification. A suitable Abstract of the Disclosure has been presented. These changes and additions do not constitute any new matter.

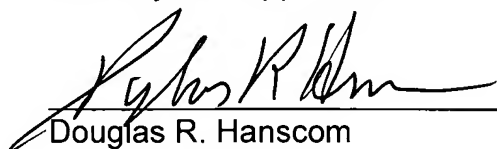
Original claims 1-21, and replacement claims 1-16 have all been cancelled. New claims 22-38 have been filed. New claims 22-38 are essentially the same, in scope, as the claims currently pending in the corresponding PCT application. They have been rewritten more in a form in accordance with U.S. practice and eliminating multiple dependencies.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment into the file of the subject U.S. patent application, prior to an examination of the application on the merits, and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Günther Oskar ECKERT
Edgar MAYLÄNDER
Applicants

JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicants



Douglas R. Hanscom
Reg. No. 26,600

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JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.
P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 415-1500
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